Klaus Moeltner

Associate Professor

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Biographical Sketch

Klaus Moeltner is a native of Innsbruck, Austria. He has lived in the United States since 1992. His academic and professional background can be divided into three segments:

Environmental / Urban Planning:

Dr. Moeltner received is M.S. degree in Environmental Planning and Engineering in 1990 from the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vienna, Austria. His research at that time focused on urban flood control, and on the environmental and landscape aspects of Olympic Winter Games.

International Policy / Project Implementation

Dr. Moeltner's second degree is an M.A. in International Policy Studies received in 1994 at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in Monterey, CA. During a subsequent two-year engagement at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. he prepared, supervised, and analyzed household surveys eliciting the demand for infrastructure improvements and other economic assistance in several countries of Central Asia and Northern Africa. One of these surveys, for example, aided in the project design for the restoration of the urban water supply system in Baku, Azerbaijan. Other projects included the improvement of public transportation in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the improvement of rural health and sanitation services in the Aral Sea region of Kazakhstan, and a study of the impact of a potential change in wheat subsidy policies on rural households in Morocco.

Environmental and Resource Economics / Applied Econometrics

Adding an economic perspective to his environmental and policy background, Dr. Moeltner completed a Ph.D. program in Economics at the University of Washington, Seattle, with Environmental and Resource Economics and Applied Econometrics as areas of specialization. Upon graduation in the summer of 2000, he joined the faculty at the Department of Resource Economics at the University of Nevada, Reno. Over the last six years, he research has covered a variety of topics on the economic aspects of resource use and management, such as urban water use, energy provision, and recreational opportunities and choices on public lands. At the same time, he has continuously worked on advancing the econometric methodologies associated with the analysis of these issues.

In recent years, he has directed his research focus towards the efficient use of secondary data to assess the economic value of resources and environmental services, and the adaptation of Bayesian estimation methodologies to better exploit these existing sources.

He has also branched out to other areas of applied economics and econometrics. For example, he is currently working on fine-tuning econometric methods to the type of data generated by public goods games and fund-raising experiments. Other emerging topics of interest include the efficient and flexible combination of data using Bayesian simulation, optimal group compositions and rotations in experimental games, the meta-analytical examination of discount rates, and Bayesian model selection and model averaging.